

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.9. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, AO

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON ANGOLA

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SUMMARY. THE PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST WESTERN CRITICS OF SOVIET POLICY IN ANGOLA CONTINUES, WHILE, IN OTHER COVERAGE, NETO'S OPENING ADDRESS AT THE AAPSO MEETING CONVEYS IMPRESSION THAT HE CONSIDERS MPLA MILITARY ACTION AS ALREADY AMOUNTED TO VICTORY. A PRAVDA REPORT ON CUBAN STATEMENTS AT THE MEEETING COULD INDICATE CUBAN INTENTION TO CONTINUE ANGOLAN PRESENCE EVEN AFTER MILITARY DEFEAT OF THE MPLA'S OPPONENTS. END SUMMARY.

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2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE ONGOING PRESS CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER WESTERN CRITICISM OF SOVIET CONDUCT IN ANGOLA CONTINUES. POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT V. MATVEYEV, IN A GENERAL ARTICLE ON DETENTE (IZVESTIYA, FEB 2) DERIDES AS "LAUGHABLE" WHEN HE DESCRIBES THE EFFORTS OF THE PROPAGANDA SERVICES OF THE WEST WHICH PORTRAY THE SUPPORT OUR COUNTRY IS GIVING TO ANGOLA " AS "EVIDENCE OF EXPANSIONISM (AND) ATTEMPTS TO SEIZE NATURAL RESOURCES AND TO RECEIVE MILITARY BASES." ACCORDING TO MATVEYEV, THE "INITIATORS OF SUCH MALICIOUS PROPAGANDA" ARE JUDGING BY THEIR OWN STANDARDS.

3. ELSEWHERE, THE CENTRAL PRESS CARRIES VARIOUS ARTICLES ON THE AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION MEETING IN LUANDA. PRAVDA (FEB 3) EXCERPTS FROM NETO'S OPENING ADDRESS IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY SAID THE CONFERENCE ITSELF CONSTITUTED "EVIDENCE" OF OF BROAD INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE "STRUGGLE OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE." NETO ALSO CLAIMED THAT "OUR VICTORY BECAME POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE HEROIC FIGHT BY THE BEST SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ANGOLA." NETO ADDED THAT "WE OBTAINED MEANINGFUL SUCCESSES ON ALL FRONTS" AGAINST THE IMPERIALIST AGGRESSORS, BUT "BEFORE US STILL STAND IMPORTANT TASKS IN THE BUILDING OF PEACE." ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, NETO SINGLED OUT PEKING FOR SPECIAL CRITICISM: CHINA "WAS REVEALED TO BE IN THE CAMP OF THE OPPONENTS OF THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA." NETO CONCLUDES WITH AN EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO THE SOVIET UNION AND ALL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES FOR THE SUPPORT "WHICH FURTHERED OUR VICTORY." IN ADDITION, THE CUBAN AND GUINEAN REPRESENTATIVES STRESSED "THE NECESSITY OF FURTHER BROAD SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE AGAINST IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION," PRAVDA CONCLUDES. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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COMMENT: THE UNAVOIDABLE IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY PRAVDA'S EXCERPTS FROM NETO'S SPEECH IS THAT HE CONSIDERS THE WAR AS OVER, AND THAT THE WORK OF RECONSTRUCTION SHOULD BEGIN. THERE IS NO HINT IN PRAVDA'S EXCERPTS, HOWEVER, OF ANY MOVE TOWARD A "CONSOLIDATION" OR COALITION OF "PATRIOTIC FORCES." IN THIS REGARD, IZVESTIYA (FEB 2) CARRIES A "COLOR" STORY FROM LUANDA WHICH IS EVEN MORE LAVISH IN ITS PRAISE FOR SOVIET ASSISTANCE, BUT WHICH ESSENTIALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCENTRATES ON VIGNETTES SUPPORTING THE LEGITIMACY OF THE MPLA REGIME. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING THAT PRAVDA OMITTS ANY ANTI-US REMARKS NETO MAY HAVE MADE--CHINA, OF COURSE, REMAINS A FAVORITE TARGET. ALSO NOTEWORTHY IS THE CUBAN REMARK, WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY FORESHADOW A CONTINUED CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA. STOESSEL

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